(c) whether rural urban divide has been noticed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per data available with the Ministry, the drop out rate at primary stage (classes I-V) of SC, ST and girl students has reduced from 41.5%. 51.4% and 33.7% in 2002-03 to 32.9%, 39.8% and 21.8% respectively in 2005-06.

(c) The rural and urban divide of the drop out rate is not available.

Pension and Gratuity facilities to Navodaya Vidyalaya employees

†173. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to give facilities of pension, gratuity, etc. to Navodaya Vidyalaya employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details as to the reasons why Government is not able to remove the said anomaly despite specific recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Government of India has approved implementation of the New Pension Scheme of Government of India to all new employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) with an option to the existing employees to continue with the existing CPF scheme or to join the New Pension Scheme. The payment of the gratuity to eligible employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti are being made according to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Payment of Gratuity Rule 2007.

Quality of Government schools

174. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ramamurthy Committee had recommended that the quality of all Government schools be enhanced to transform them into genuine neighbourhood schools and simultaneously making private schools freely accessible; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so that the premise made by the Kothari Commission that the children of the masses are compelled to receive sub-standard education, while economically privileged parents are able to buy good education, could be adequately taken care of in view of substantial funds allocated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to improve quality of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.